



Advice Fishing Hobo Style: Trot Lines (self.vagabond)

submitted 2 days ago \* by [huckstah](#) [Trainhopper / Hitchhiker](#)

Trot Lines

While making a gill net can be bit a bit difficult or time-consuming for some, and carrying expensive rod/reel kits are too expensive for others, trot lines are an excellent option for ALL vagabond fishermen.

Trot lines are an ancient fishing technique that is still commonly used by commercial and recreational fishermen alike. Why? Because they work extremely well. In fact, in most waters, it's almost IMPOSSIBLE not to catch a fish on a trot line.

Material Needed:

- 1) String (or cord, rope, twine, etc)
- 2) Bait/Lure
- 3) Floats (optional, not necessary)

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That's it! It doesn't really get much easier or cheaper than this. You can use paracord, rope, twine, or even wire to make one of these.

As for having floaters, they aren't really necessary. They add a nice visual aid for when you get a fish on the line, or for fishing at a certain depth, but generally you aren't going to need floaters to catch fish effectively with a standard trot line setup.

### Setting Up:

First, make sure you get a visual understanding of what a [trot line looks like](#) before proceeding.

Trot lines work best on creeks, streams, or small ponds, so that you can tie each end of the trot line to the opposite bank. Also, remember that trot lines only work in streams and ponds that are atleast more than 4 feet deep (unless you are bottomfishing, but thats an entirely different subject)

A trot line is basically a long rope/string (main-line) that has shorter strings (known as leaders) hanging from it. Your main-lines will be hung from one side of a bank to the other, with each end typically tied to a tree, stake, or rock on each opposite side of the bank.

When tying the trot line to each bank, make sure you get the line tight and strong enough so that the line isn't sinking to the bottom of the stream. You want the top of your main-line to be at the surface of the water, or dipping about 1 foot below the surface, depending on the depth of water you are fishing.

On your main-line, you will want to hang down some string or

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fishing line known as leaders) at lengths of about 1-2 feet, depending on the depth of water. For example, if the water depth looks like it is about 4 feet deep, make your leaders 18 inches. If the water is only 2-3 feet deep, cut your leaders to 8 inches.

On the end of each leader, attach a hook and a piece of bait or lure.

Now sit back, prepare a fire, and look for jerks and shakes that might indicate a fish is on there.

When you are ready to check your trot line, simply pull in your line slowly and smoothly, and reel the fish into shore.

Don't be surprised if you catch multiple fish within a few minutes or a couple of hours when using a trot line. It is VERY effective. On the otherhand, and depending largely on location, you might have to be quite patient, and wait several hours for your first catch.

In reality, most trot-line fisherman people hang their trot line in the evening, camp out and go to sleep, then wake up in the morning to reel in the line. This is by far the most effective form of using a trot line, and the method recommended for guaranteed 100% success.

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This might be a stupid question but how are you supposed to reel it in when it is attached to a stake/tree the other side?

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[–] [huckstah](#) [Trainhopper / Hitchhiker](#) [S](#) 2 points 2 days ago

Just yank on it if it's tied to a rock or stake. Keep in mind, your rock or stake doesn't need to be too firm unless its a really fast moving stream. I usually use a rock about 8-12 inches in diameter...small enough to throw across the bank, but big enough to weigh down my line.

Otherwise, you just have to swim across and untie it.

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Thanks man.

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